August 24, 1929

Mr. Jesse Weik
Green Castle, Ind.

Dear Mr. Weik:

For a long time I have had it in mind to presume to make a suggestion to you, but have delayed doing so. I am sure others must have made it to you, possibly you are even carrying it out.

This is the suggestion - that you publish in full the Herndon manuscripts, with your own notes, biographical and explanatory.

I do not know now a more important contribution to be made to Lincolniana than the publication of these documents. Of course there may be objections to publication of which I don't know; but I am convinced that you would render a great service to Lincoln students if you would do this. My feeling about it has been intensified by the excellent use that Senator Beveridge made of the manuscripts. What do you think of the idea? I am quite sure that you could find a publisher. The publication would not in any way lessen their value as manuscripts, and it would enormously increase their value to the student.

It would, too, it seems to me be an appropriate monument to Mr. Herndon. Where we would be without him, I don't know. Though I have in certain cases disagreed entirely with his interpretation of documents, I held in highest regard - and have never failed to express it - not only his remarkable contribution of personal recollections but of his equally

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remarkable collection of the recollections of others. What do you think of this?

I hope, my dear Mr. Weik, that you are well. If you should be East again, I hope you will let me know. I should like to have a talk with you.

Very sincerely yours

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